

Amateur radio sustains and provides a valuable pool of trained men and women who are vital in natural and other emergencies.

Amateur radio also serves as a testbed to improve the state of the art of communication and electronics, and several innovative companies were started by people who honed their skills in amateur radio.

I use the amateur radio service here in Northern California as a vital tool in case a major quake results from the rupture of the Hayward or other faults that run close our community. I will also soon participate in the local RACES to provide emergency communication services to the community at large.

The current FCC limits for BPL can already result in substantial interference potential to amateur frequencies, and BPL systems that radiate on wide swaths of spectrum and that occupy entire neighborhoods have greater interference potential than localized systems, such as switching power supplies or electric motors.

Relaxing such limits even further will generate substantial interference on frequencies currently licensed to the amateur radio service. Please see the reports on the field studies at the ARRL site:

http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#Amateur_Interference_Studies

More importantly, such interference will diminish the ability for the amateur radio service to attract and sustain the pool of operators who provide vital public emergency services, and light the creative spark that has contributed to so many advances in the electronics and communication revolution.